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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The President of the Security Council has the honour to transmit to the Security Council a letter dated 3 November 1994 from the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission established by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 9 (b) (i) of Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

Annex

Letter dated 3 November 1994 from the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the implementation of the Special Commission's plan for the ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraq's compliance with relevant parts of section C of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) (S/1994/1138). In paragraph 32 of the report, attention is drawn to the serious financial situation currently confronting the Special Commission where the resources available to it will be depleted by the end of December 1994. The report suggests that the "Council needs to address the issue of both short- and long-term financing at an early date if it is to have an assured and effective monitoring system".

Since that report was written, I have actively pursued the issue with potential contributors and I regret that I have been unable to obtain any assurances of a timely provision of the funds needed to continue operations of the Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as of early 1995. In these circumstances, I have had to report as follows to the Special Commission at its eighth plenary session held on 1 and 2 November 1994:

> "... the financial situation is now so serious, and there are no signs of new funds becoming available, that the Commission has had to, out of a sense of financial responsibility, start contingency planning for the incremental closure of its operations. The following is a summary of this plan as it stands with current prospects for funding:
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> "1. Non-resident inspection teams would cease to be deployed into Iraq on or about 15 December 1994;
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> "2. Resident monitoring teams would gradually cease operations as personnel would not be replaced. Through this attrition, all monitoring group activities would cease as of 1 February 1995. The biological group would not be deployed in December as planned;
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> "3. Ongoing monitoring and verification support teams would not courier biological and chemical monitoring equipment into Iraq during December. These teams would commence the removal of remote site cameras and other sensor equipment during January 1995;
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> "4. New York staff reductions would commence in mid-December to reflect the cessation of mission planning, protocol-building and data analysis from the monitoring groups. The remaining staff's efforts would focus upon closure actions in New York and supporting the withdrawal of the counterpart monitoring groups in Baghdad;

"5. Aerial inspection team operations would cease in January and the photographic laboratory would be disassembled and removed to Bahrain. On or before 1 February 1995, the helicopter unit would leave Iraq;

"6. Final closure actions within the Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Centre would be completed by 15 February 1995, when the Centre staff, medical and communications personnel would leave on the last C-160 flight for Bahrain;

"7. The C-160 unit would withdraw from Muharraq on or before 20 February 1995. The United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) Field Office in Bahrain would close on this date;

"8. New York operational and analytical staff would be completely dispersed by the end of February 1995."

You may wish to bring the foregoing to the attention of the members of the Council so that they may consider appropriate steps to permit the Commission and IAEA to discharge their mandates.

The Commission and IAEA, obviously, will continue to do everything in their power to continue to carry out the duties entrusted to them by the Security Council for as long as those duties so require and to seek the funds needed to do so. However, I would be remiss if I did not now inform the Council officially of our serious resource situation and the steps that are being contemplated if that situation is not remedied in the next few weeks. If operations and planning are to continue at the present level, a deposit in the escrow account in the amount of $5 million, earmarked for the Commission, is required in December 1994. In 1995 it is estimated that funding in the area of $25 million will be needed, including the above amount of $5 million.

(Signed) Rolf EKÉUS
Executive Chairman
Special Commission